

STATE OF MAINE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 23 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0023

THOMAS A. DESJARDIN ACTING COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT #VI.B.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Thomas A. Desjardin, Acting Commissioner*

DATE: April 15, 2015

SUBJECT: Receipt of the Review Team Report of Findings for the Valparaiso University

application seeking State Board authority to offer a three credit residency

course in Maine.

<u>BACKGROUND</u>: A State Board of Education approved video conference meeting with Valparaiso University representatives was conducted on March 11, 2015 for the purpose of reviewing the three credit residency component of their M.A./M.Ed. in Humane Education in Maine to be offered in Maine.

The Master's programs in Humane Education consist of 33 credit hours and are delivered primarily online with the exception of the three-credit residency course offered in Maine at the Institute for Humane Education. Students complete a core set of 15 credits, the experiential component, credits toward thesis preparation and project, and electives.

The course offered in Maine is fully owned and administered by Valparaiso University within the current standing structure of university governance. The residency course in Maine falls under the supervision of a full-time program director at Valparaiso University in Indiana who reports to the Chair of the Education Department, a unit of the College of Arts and Sciences, with additional oversight afforded by the Dean of the Graduate School since the program had a graduate designation.

<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>: That the State Board of Education vote to receive the Valparaiso University Review Team's Report of Findings. Consideration of this report will appear as an action agenda item for the Board's May 13, 2015 meeting.

* Presented by Angel Martinez Loredo Higher Education Specialist Maine Department of Education